

Appendix A – Case Studies

EHS 0026 - Case Study #1 – Electrical

A PI and 2 research students were cleaning up a lab in Bldg. 90. In the corner of the lab was a piece of equipment that was covered by other materials in the lab. One of the students decided to pick up the equipment to place it in a storage box. The equipment was still plugged into an electrical outlet. Once the cord on the equipment ran out, it gave a jerk and fell to the ground. A plate fell from the side of the equipment exposing wires inside. The student attempted to reconnect the small plate onto the equipment when he received a mild electrical shock. The student reported the shock to his PI right away but reported he was feeling fine and had no symptoms. After several hours, the PI took the student to Health Services for a medical exam.

EHS 0026 - Case Study #2 – Ergonomics

In March, an employee complained of some pain in both wrists due to increased computer work. An ergonomic workstation evaluation was requested for this individual on March 22. The actual evaluation was performed on March 28. It was determined that the individual needed a different keyboard tray, which the Ergonomic Evaluator recommended. The employee submitted a purchase request for recommended keyboard tray, but it was on back order. Although the tray did not yet arrive, the employee continued to work at the same workstation. By the end of April, the keyboard tray had not yet been implemented and the pain continued and increased in severity. The employee was treated at Health Services and was ultimately prescribed medication and began physical therapy.